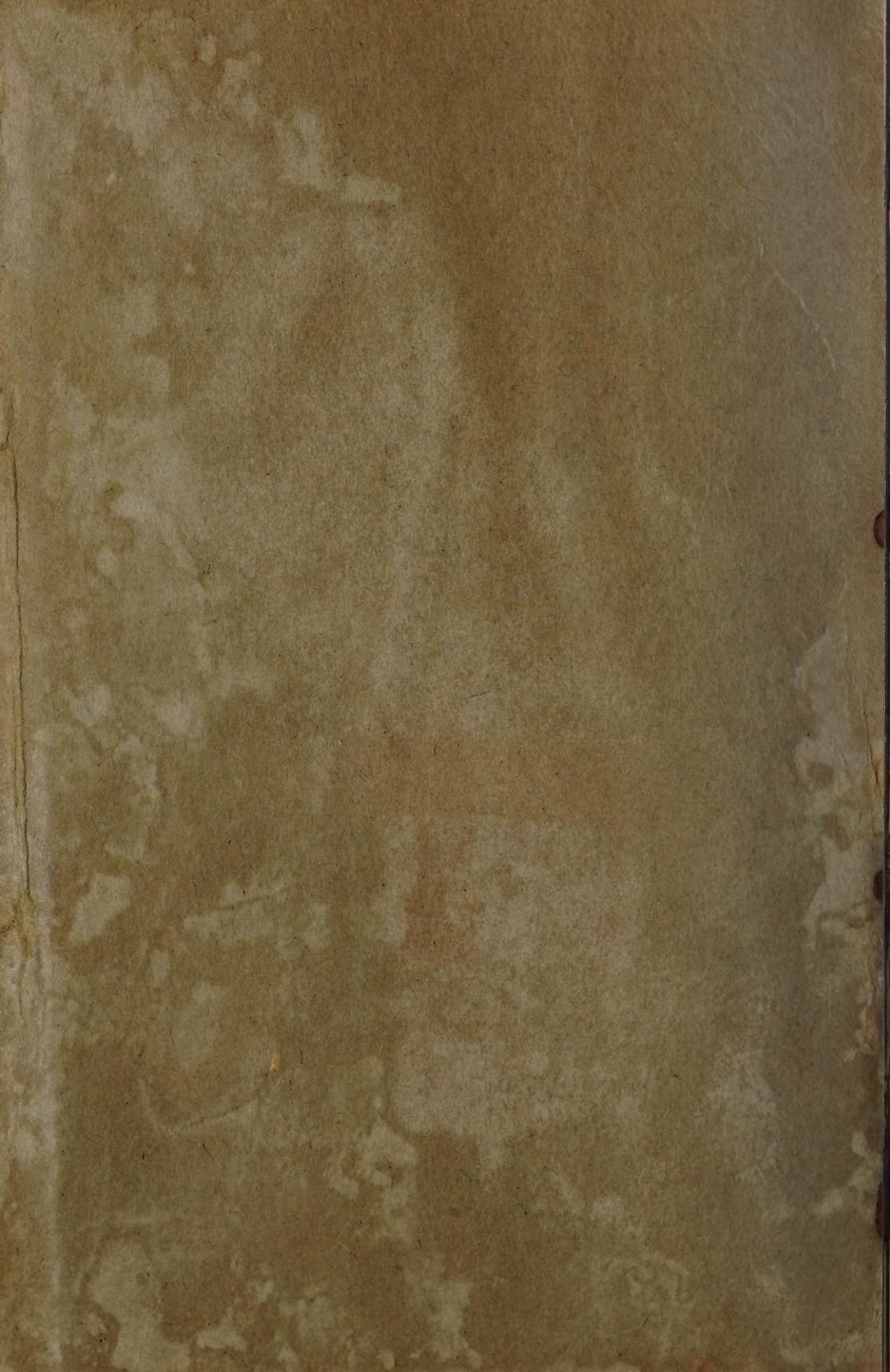


HISTORY  
OF THE  
**Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War**

1881-1939



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SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL HALL  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



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Grand Army  
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Republic  
March 20, 1876  
at the  
age of 40

Major R. Davis Died at Pittsburg Pa May 21, 1899

This is "The History of the Sons of Union Veterans" as presented to the Thirty-third Annual Encampment held at Detroit, Michigan, September 1-3, 1914 by a committee composed of:

Joseph B. Maccabe of Massachusetts

Louis M. Wagner of Pennsylvania

George B. Abbott of Illinois

and approved by the Encampment.

To it has been added data from 1914 to 1939 inclusive and additional articles which are of interest to our or-

The Committee is indebted to Past Commander-in-Chief John E. Sautter for his valuable assistance.

Prepared for the Fifth -eighth Army Camp, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at 29-8 Star Camp, Department of Pennsylvania, Union Veterans of the Civil War.

CO 23P

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## H I S T O R Y

of the

### Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Sons of Veterans as an Order, is unique and practically stands alone as a society of men formed and maintained primarily for honoring and aiding another entirely independent society. Its most practical purposes are to assist the Grand Army of the Republic as representing the survivors of the War of the Rebellion, to honor the man who fought for the preservation of the National Union, either living or dead, and to uphold the principles in defense of which he offered his life. Briefly, therefore, this Order is patriotic, charitable and educational.

At the time of its inception in all of the several independent organizations of Sons of Veterans, which eventually became incorporated into the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., [and at the Grand Rapids Encampment in 1925 to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War] the military spirit prevailed. Military and naval titles exclusively were given to the officers and a uniform was prescribed. Drills and field encampments were attractive features and gold trimmings and brass buttons were plentiful. This military spirit was not without practical results as shown by the large percentage of Sons of Veterans who became volunteers at the time of our war with Spain in 1898. In fact, so many of the martial minded and soldierly trained members became identified with the Spanish war and societies of its survivors, that the Sons of Veterans experienced a marked falling off in its membership. On account of this dropping away of the military element and the fact that the average age of the membership was advanced beyond the years when uniforms and military evolutions are attractive, the Order gradually has been reforming on other lines until now it is practically a civic organization with a military sub-organization known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve which is strictly a military body and a credit to our Order.

As an order it is thoroughly American in that it is composed of all political faiths and religious creeds and has never departed from this course.

Early in 1883 the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of members of the Sons of Veterans were organized through the efforts of Maj. A. P. Davis of Pittsburg, into what was then known as the Ladies Aid Society of the Sons of Veterans. It was

officially recognized as the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary in 1884. It completed its national organization in 1887 and became recognized as attached to the Sons of Veterans. Later in 1900 this ladies society changed its name to that of "Sons of Veterans Auxiliary" [and in 1925 to Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War].

To no one person can the honor be given of originating the Sons of Veterans. The earliest idea of and movement for organizing the sons of veterans of the War of the Rebellion, beyond question, was brought forth in the City of Philadelphia in 1878. It had become a practice with several Posts of the G. A. R. in Philadelphia to permit the sons of the comrades to join in the parade with the Posts on Memorial Day. This also was in vogue in several eastern cities, notably in Boston, Mass., and vicinity, where the youngsters trudged out before they were in their teens. It naturally followed that these boys, ranging from 12 to 16 years old, should be organized into a tangible body. Therefore, at a meeting of Anna M. Ross Post No. 94, Department of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic, Philadelphia, Pa., August 27, 1878, when on motion of Comrade James P. Holt, a committee was appointed to devise means for forming a G. A. R. Cadet Corps, comprised of Comrades Holt, Levi W. Shngle, Carl Frederic, Charles Weiss and William H. Morgan.

The committee submitted by report a plan at the meeting of the Post September 18, 1878, which was adopted, and, October 15, 1878, presented a constitution, which was accepted; and the committee was instructed to receive applications for membership in the Cadet Corps. It was to be formed of the "Sons of Union Soldiers, Sailors or Marines" of the War of 1861-'65.

Lewis E. Vandegrift, whose death occurred early in January, 1910, was the first Captain or Commander of the Cadet Corps attached to Anna M. Ross Post No. 94, G. A. R., Department of Pennsylvania.

Capt. P. R. Schuyler Post No. 51, Department of Pennsylvania, G. A. R., Philadelphia, and other Posts followed in the organization of "Cadet Corps," with the idea that these organizations eventually would perpetuate the principles, objects and work of the Grand Army of the Republic.

It will be noted that these organizations were called "Cadet Corps" and may be designated as the Philadelphia or Eastern Pennsylvania Sons of Veterans. Press notices undoubtedly carried this idea to other states and soon other organizations of the sons of Union soldiers and sailors were started, notably in New England, at Albany, N. Y., and in Pittsburg, Pa. The Sons of Veterans in New England became known as the Earp Sons of Veterans owing to the activity of Brother Edwin M. Earp, of Lynn, Mass., these were allied to the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans. The Albany Sons of Veterans were known as the Post

System of Sons of Veterans in view of the fact that in the titles of the officers and form of organization it followed closely that of the G. A. R. The organization originating in Pittsburg was known as the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and was fathered and actively promoted by Maj. A. P. Davis, of Pittsburg, the first Camp (Davis Camp) being organized November 12, 1881. Major Davis was a good organizer with a large circle of acquaintances in the Loyal Legion and G. A. R. whom he induced to take active part in the work for the young men. He never hesitated to advance money to the Order and did the work which soon made the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., the paramount organization to which all others eventually united, the last to be brought over being the Post System which came in after long negotiations, much the larger portion coming in at the close of the Abbott administration in 1889, Geo. W. Marks, of Brooklyn, being the Commander-in-Chief of the Post System at that time, and the balance piecemeal at various times thereafter.

Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph B. Maccabe was the active force in winning over the Earp or New England branch of the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans into the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., bringing in thirty-four Camps in Massachusetts in December, 1884. Brother Ensign brought over twenty Camps in Ohio about this time, of the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans.

September 29, 1880, a plan was adopted whereby all the Cadet Corps were formed into Camps of Sons of Veterans. November 26, 1880, the Cadet Corps of Anna M. Ross Post became "Anna M. Ross Camp No. 1, Sons of Veterans," and November 29, 1880, the Cadet Corps of Post 51, became "Capt. P. R. Schuyler Camp No. 2, Sons of Veterans." The other Cadet Corps followed with the change of name and affiliated with the "new" Order—viz: "The Sons of Veterans."

Other corps that had been mustered in the State of Pennsylvania, followed into the movement through the activity of G. A. R. Posts, and early in July, 1881, about a dozen Camps had been formed, when a State Convention or Department Encampment, subsequently defined as a Division Encampment, was held, composed of representatives from the various Camps in the Division (State) in Philadelphia.

At this encampment, action was taken towards the formation of Camps throughout the State of Pennsylvania and the country, and Conrad Linder of Camp No. 1, Philadelphia, was elected "Colonel"—the titles of officers all being military.

A ritual had been prepared (and the Camps had been working under same)—by Past Commander-in-Chief Louis Wagner of the Grand Army of the Republic, Philadelphia, and father of Louis M. Wagner, Past Commander-in-Chief, a member of Ellis Camp No. 9, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Camps had been in the meanwhile organized in New Jersey, New York, Delaware and other States. In 1881 a National body was formed by representatives from these Divisions and Alfred Cope of Camp No. 3, of Philadelphia, was elected "Grand Commander" at an Encampment held in Philadelphia.

James Harwood Closson, Camp No. 1, Philadelphia, succeeded Comrade Linder as the Colonel or Commander of the Division of Pennsylvania, at the convention or encampment held at Reading, Pa., July 4, 1882.

Dissensions in East Pennsylvania continued to grow by reason of having Camps mustered and receiving no charters and other features principally due to want of finances, for the proper work of organization; and the success of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., of Western Pennsylvania greatly influenced the Pennsylvania or Philadelphia Sons of Veterans or Camps thereof, and in consequence a semi-annual or special Division Convention was held at Harrisburg, Pa., in 1883, when thirty-three Camps in the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans decided to unite with the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. Three of the Philadelphia-Closson Camps remained loyal to Grand Commander Cope.

Grand Commander Cope had Louis M. Wagner in command of the Pennsylvania Camps remaining to him. He pushed the work of organizing new Camps vigorously and had quite a following. Cope was succeeded as Grand Commander by Edwin M. Earp, of Massachusetts, with Louis M. Wagner, of Pennsylvania, as Lieut. Grand Commander. Earp went to Florida and Wagner assumed command, and was subsequently elected Grand Commander.

The Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., flourished and succeeded. Under the active work of Major Davis, Gen. Wm. E. W. Ross, Gen. I. S. Bangs of Maine, Major R. M. J. Reed of Philadelphia, and prominent and active G. A. R. comrades elsewhere.

Harry T. Rowley, of Pittsburg, a member of Davis Camp, had been made Colonel of the Pennsylvania Division of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., or Western Pennsylvania. He had also been made "Provisional Commander-in-Chief."

Pursuant to orders issued by "Col. H. T. Rowley, Provisional Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans," the first annual session of the Commandery-in-Chief, U. S. A., was held at Pittsburg, Pa., October 18, 1882. The sessions were held at the Headquarters of Davis Camp No. 1, and organized by electing Major John A. Wood, of Garfield Camp No. 3 (McKeesport, Pa.) temporary Chairman, and Major John H. Seiforth of Davis Camp No. 1, (Pittsburgh, Pa.) temporary Secretary.

The representatives at this encampment were: Col. Chas. M. Morton and I. B. Stanton, of New York.

Cols. W. C. Wykoff and W. R. Byers, of Ohio.

Col. Harry T. Rowley, Major John A. Wood, Major John H. Seiforth and Lieut. H. W. Wilker, of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Col. Wykoff it was "Resolved, That the provisional officers of the Commandery-in-Chief be made the permanent officers until the regular election," thus regularly establishing the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

At this encampment—a ritual, signs, grips, etc., were adopted and exemplified by Brother Stanton, and the per capita tax was fixed at fifteen cents per year. These officers were elected:

Commander-in-Chief Harry T. Rowley, Pittsburg, Pa.

Lieut. Commander-in-Chief, Charles Durfee, Chicago, Ill.

Vice Lieut. Commander-in-Chief, W. C. Wykoff, Columbus, Ohio.

Chief-of-Staff, Walter E. Norris, Pittsburg, Pa.

Commander-in-Chief Rowley appointed: Adjutant General, H. W. Wilker, Pittsburg; Quartermaster-General, F. N. Arbogast, Pittsburgh; Inspector-General, I. B. Stanton, Amsterdam, N. Y.; Judge Advocate-General, Chas. Chenowith, Chicago, Ill., and Chaplain-in-Chief, M. R. Byers, Columbus, Ohio.

The Pennsylvania Division under Colonel Closson, at its next regular encampment at Lancaster, Pa., July 4, 1883, united with the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. All the representatives were duly mustered by Gen. William E. W. Ross and Major R. M. J. Reed, given the secret work and exemplification of the ritual, and, upon their return home they in turn conferred the work upon the members of their Camps. Edgar W. Alexander, of Reading, was elected Colonel, and active work was done during the following year.

Provisional Commander-in-Chief Rowley issued an order July 29, 1882 as follows:

1. To still further advance the interests of the Order, and to provide for more rapid spread throughout the country, the same is hereby divided into Five Grand Divisions as follows, to-wit:

1st Grand Division composed of the six New England States.

2nd Grand Division, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia.

3rd Grand Division, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota.

4th Grand Division, California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.

5th Grand Division, all the remaining Southern States, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Indian Territory and Texas.

The Commanders of the Grand Divisions were: First, Gen. I. S. Bangs, Waterville, Maine; Second, Gen. William E. W. Ross,

Baltimore, Md.; Third, W. J. Maskell, Chicago, Ill. The records do not show organizations of the other Grand Divisions at this time. Divisions reported to Grand Divisions, and Grand Divisions to the Commander-in-Chief. At the Fourth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief all Grand Divisions were abolished and Divisions were required to report direct to the Commander-in-Chief.

At the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held at Denver, Col., July 25-27, 1883, representatives of the Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., from the Divisions of Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Maine, Connecticut, Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Rhode Island, appeared in response to the invitation through general orders of the Commander-in-Chief, Paul Vander Voort, and laid before a committee of that Encampment the rules and regulations, ritual, etc., of the Sons of Veterans.

This committee comprised: Department Commander Clark of Ohio; Department Commander Wm. Warren of Missouri; Comrades Harper, Pennsylvania; Valentine, of Vermont; and Puterbaugh, of Illinois. The committee approved the Regulations, Rituals and other features and on motion of Comrade Harper a resolution was prepared and adopted recommending that the G. A. R. "recognize and encourage this branch of the Order known as the 'Sons of Veterans' of the United States of America." This resolution was unanimously adopted by the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. It had the effect of causing the other branches organized in various States of either consolidating and uniting with the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., or disbanding the Camps which would not unite.

Of the Commanders-in-Chief—three (3), Walter S. Payne, Leland J. Webb and E. R. Campbell were soldiers and members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Of the Commanders-in-Chief (Past) these have died, viz: Harry M. Arnold, Walter S. Payne, Leland J. Webb, Charles F. Griffin, William E. Bundy, Frank P. Merrill and Frank Martin.

The honors of Past Commander-in-Chief were by vote of the Commandery-in-Chief conferred upon Major A. P. Davis, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Major R. M. J. Reed, of Philadelphia, Pa., for their services in organizing Camps and work for the Order.

The Commandery-in-Chief Encampments also bestowed the honor of Constitutional Life Member upon: William E. W. Ross, Baltimore, Md.; I. S. Bangs, Waterville, Maine; Major R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. A. Rodrigo, Newark, N. J.; William H. Pierpont, New Haven, Conn.; John A. Thompson, Baltimore, Md.; Major A. P. Davis, Pittsburg, Pa.; W. S. Eldridge, Portland, Maine; R. M. Linton, Johnstown, Pa.; Judge O. B. Brown, Dayton, Ohio; John E. Mills, Bradford, Mass.; William Luther Davis,

Cincinnati, Ohio; Harold McGrew, Indianapolis, Ind.; John M. Thurston, Omaha, Neb.; Charles A. Bookwalter, Indianapolis, Ind.; Isaac Cutter, Camp Point, Ill.

This honor entitles life membership in the Order with vote and voice, in Commandery-in-Chief Encampment.

At the time of consolidation of the Philadelphia Sons of Veterans (1886) and the Post System Sons of Veterans (1889), past honors were granted to all Past and sitting Commanders to corresponding and equal rank in the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

The Second Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief was held at Columbus, Ohio, August 6, 1883, at which Frank P. Merrill, of Auburn, Maine, was elected Commander-in-Chief and Headquarters were established at that place.

The Third Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief was held in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa., August 27-30, 1884. It was said to be the first body or society of the kind to have the honor and distinction of meeting therein. At this Encampment Harry W. Arnold, of Johnstown, Pa., was elected Commander-in-Chief.

The Fourth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief was held at Grand Rapids, Mich., September 17, 1885, at which it was reported that there were in the Order 6,903 members with "no reports from the Fourth and Fifth Grand Divisions. At this Encampment Walter S. Payne, Fostoria, Ohio, was elected Commander-in-Chief on the ninth ballot. It was at this Encampment that it was "Resolved, That the Sons of Veterans encourage the formation of Ladies' Aid Societies.

The Fifth Annual Encampment was held at Buffalo, N. Y., August 31-September 2, 1886, at which Walter S. Payne, of Fostoria, Ohio, was re-elected Commander-in-Chief.

Subsequent Encampment and Commanders-in-Chief elected thereat were as follows, *viz*:

Sixth—at Des Moines, Iowa, August 17-19, 1887, at which George B. Abbott, of Chicago, was elected Commander-in-Chief.

Seventh—at Wheeling, West Virginia, August 15-17, 1888, where Commander-in-Chief Abbott reported having approved during the year closing 678 charters for Camps with the aggregate number of 12,105 members. The membership was reported as 56,472—the highest it had ever attained. Commander-in-Chief Abbott succeeded himself at this Encampment as Commander-in-Chief, and it was ordered that the "Commandery-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A., be incorporated in some State." The Commandery-in-Chief was therefore incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois.

Eighth—at Paterson, New Jersey, September 10-13, 1889. At this encampment "Union Defenders" Day was adopted and

established to be observed by the Sons of Veterans, commemorative of Lincoln's Birthday. Charles F. Griffin, of Indianapolis, Ind., elected Commander-in-Chief on the twelfth ballot.

Ninth—at St. Joseph, Missouri, August 26-29, 1890, at which 51,923 members were reported in good standing, and Leland J. Webb, of Topeka, Kansas, was elected Commander-in-Chief.

Tenth—at Minneapolis, Minn., August 24-29, 1891, Bartow S. Weeks, of New York, N. Y., was elected Commander-in-Chief, and a new Ritual and new Constitution were adopted.

Eleventh—at Helena, Montana, 1892, and Marvin E. Hall, of Hillsdale, Mich., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twelfth—at Cincinnati, Ohio, 1893, Joseph B. Maccabe, of Boston, Mass., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Thirteenth—at Davenport, Iowa, 1894, William E. Bundy, of Cincinnati, Ohio, elected Commander-in-Chief.

Fourteenth—at Knoxville, Tenn., 1895, William H. Russell, of LaCrosse, Kansas, elected Commander-in-Chief.

Fifteenth—at Louisville, Ky., 1896, James Lewis Rake, Reading, Pa., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Sixteenth—at Indianapolis, Ind., 1897, Charles K. Darling, of Boston, Mass., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Seventeenth—at Omaha, Neb., 1898. The Commander-in-Chief (Charles K. Darling) was at the head of his regiment in Porto Rico—Spanish-American War—and many of the members of the Order were in the U. S. service in the war with Spain, and in the absence of the Commander-in-Chief, Geo. E. Cogshall, of Grand Rapids, Mich., Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, presided. The Encampment was saddened and very little enthusiasm was manifested by reason of the war and so many of the members and prominent officers in the Order, having "gone to the front." Frank L. Shepard, of Chicago, Ill., was elected Commander-in-Chief.

Eighteenth—at Detroit, Mich., 1899, A. W. Jones, of Youngstown, Ohio, elected Commander-in-Chief.

Nineteenth—at Syracuse, N. Y., 1900, Edgar W. Alexander, of Reading, Pa., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twentieth—at Providence, R. I., September 19, 1901, the members greatly depressed by the death of President McKinley. Edward R. Campbell, of Washington, D. C., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-first—at Washington, D. C., 1902, Frank Martin, of Indianapolis, Ind., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-second—at Atlantic City, N. J., 1903, Arthur B. Spink, Providence, R. I., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-third—at Boston, Mass., 1904, William G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-fourth—at Gettysburg, Pa., 1905, Harley V. Speelman, Cincinnati, Ohio, elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-fifth—at Peoria, Ill., 1906, Edwin M. Amies, Altoona, Pa., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-sixth—at Dayton, Ohio, 1907, Ralph Sheldon, Albany, N. Y., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-seventh—at Niagara Falls, N. Y., 1908, Edgar Allan, Jr., Richmond, Virginia, elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-eighth—Washington, D. C., 1909, George W. Pollitt, Paterson, N. J., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Twenty-ninth—at Atlantic City, N. J., 1910, Fred E. Bolton, Boston, Mass., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Thirtieth—at Rochester, N. Y., 1911, Newton J. McGuire, Indianapolis, Ind., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Thirty-first—at St. Louis, Mo., 1912, Ralph M. Grant, New Haven, Conn., elected Commander-in-Chief.

Thirty-second—at Chattanooga, Tenn., 1913, John E. Sautter, of Aspinwall, Pa., elected Commander-in-Chief.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Mass.

LOUIS M. WAGNER, of Pa.

G. B. ABBOTT, of Ill.

Committee.

NOTE: Of the above named Commanders-in-Chief all are deceased except William H. Russell, Ralph Sheldon, Ralph M. Grant and John E. Sautter.

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**PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
From 1914 to 1939 Inclusive

Thirty-third—at Detroit Michigan, September 1-3, 1914, Charles F. Sherman, of New York, elected.

Thirty-fourth—at Washington, D. C., September 28-30, 1915, \*A. E. B. Stephens, of Ohio, elected.

Thirty-fifth—at Kansas City, Missouri, August 20-31, 1916, William T. Church, of Illinois, elected.

Thirty-sixth—at Boston, Massachusetts, August 22-23, 1917, \*Fred T. F. Johnson, of Maryland, elected.

Thirty-seventh—at Niagara Falls, New York, August 20-21, 1918, \*Francis Callahan, of Pennsylvania, elected.

Thirty-eighth—at Columbus, Ohio, September 8-11, 1919, \*Harry D. Sisson, of Massachusetts, elected.

Thirty-ninth—at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 22-24, 1920, Pelham A. Barrows, of Nebraska, elected.

Fortieth—at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 27-29, 1921, \*Clifford Ireland, of Illinois, elected.

Forty-first—at Des Moines, Iowa, September 26-28, 1922, Frank Shellhouse, of Indiana, elected.

Forty-second—at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 4-6, 1923, Samuel S. Horn, of Pennsylvania, elected.

Forty-third—at Boston, Massachusetts, August 12-14, 1924, William M. Coffin, of Ohio, elected.

Forty-fourth—at Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 1-3, 1925, Edwin C. Irelan, of Maryland, elected.

Forty-fifth—at Des Moines, Iowa, September 21-23, 1926, Ernest W. Homan, of Massachusetts, elected.

Forty-sixth—at Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 13-15, 1927, Walter C. Mabie, of Pennsylvania, elected.

Forty-seventh—at Denver, Colorado, September 18-20, 1928, Delevan Bates Bowley, of California, elected.

Forty-eighth—at Portland, Maine, September 10-12, 1929, \*Theodore C. Cazeau, of New York, elected.

Forty-ninth—at Cincinnati, Ohio, August 26-28, 1930, Allan S. Holbrook, of Illinois, elected.

Fiftieth—at Des Moines, Iowa, September 15-17, 1931, Frank C. Huston, of Indiana, elected.

Fifty-first—at Springfield, Illinois, September 20-22, 1932, \*Titus M. Ruch, of Pennsylvania, elected.

Fifty-second—at St. Paul, Minnesota, September 19-21, 1933, Park F. Yengling, of Ohio, elected.

Fifty-third—at Rochester, New York, August 14-16, 1934, Frank L. Kirchgassner, of Massachusetts, elected.

Fifty-fourth—at Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 10-12, 1935, Richard F. Locke, of Illinois, elected.

Fifty-fifth—at Washington, D. C., September 22-24, 1936, William Allan Dyer, of New York, elected.

Fifty-sixth—at Madison, Wisconsin, September 7-9, 1937, William Allan Dyer, of New York, elected.

Fifty-seventh—at Des Moines, Iowa, September 5-8, 1938, William L. Anderson, Sr., of Massachusetts, elected.

Fifty-eighth—at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 27-31, 1939.

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\*Deceased.

#### **MERITORIOUS SERVICE RECOGNIZED**

HORACE H. HAMMER

Adjutant General to the Commandery-in-Chiefs during the years 1896-97; 1900-01.

National Secretary—1905 to 1920.

National Secretary-Treasurer—1920 to the present.

## GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC RECOGNITION

From the official proceedings of the Grand Army of the Republic the following Resolutions are quoted, showing the official recognition of our Order, by the Parent Order, from our earliest history to the recent past.

From resolution adopted at the 15th Annual Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, June, 1881, we quote: "The Sons of Veterans are all that their name implies; that they are of the best blood of the land, and as such should be encouraged in following the footsteps of their illustrious predecessors."

From the report of the committee on the address of Commander-in-Chief Van Dervoort, at the 17th Annual Encampment, July, 1883: "Resolved, That we hail with pleasure all organizations having for their object the perpetuity of the principles which are dear to us, and we recognize in the Sons of Veterans of the U. S. A. one that is entitled to the support of all comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic."

Resolution adopted at the 22nd Annual Encampment, September, 1888: "Resolved, That this encampment endorse the objects and purposes of the Order of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and hereby give to that Order official recognition of the Grand Army of the Republic and recommend that Comrades aid and encourage the institution of Camps of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

At the 23rd Annual Encampment, Milwaukee, Wis., August 26-28, 1889: "Resolved, By the 23rd National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic that the Order of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., be, and it is hereby recognized as the Order of Sons of Veterans, and we bid them 'Godspeed' in their noble and patriotic work, and recommend to all sons of ex-Union soldiers and sailors over the age of eighteen years that they unite with that Order, so as to be prepared to take up and carry on the work of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty and the maintenance of the Federal Union, saved and preserved by their fathers."

At the 35th Annual Encampment, Cleveland, Ohio, 1901: "Resolved, That the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., be invited to hold the Annual Encampment of their Commandery-in-Chief at the same time and place fixed for the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic."

At the 54th Annual Encampment, 1920: "Resolved, That the column of parade at such future Encampments include, First, an escort of uniformed Sons of Veterans not exceeding one hundred (100) in number."

At the 57th Annual Encampment, Milwaukee, Wis., 1923, the Committee on Rules and Regulations presented the following: "That so much of the Rules and Regulations as is necessary be amended to provide for the members of the organization of the

Sons of Veterans meeting with the Post in regular session, without vote."

At the 61st Annual Encampment, Grand Rapids, Mich., August 29-September 4, 1927: "That in order that the Status of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War may be more clearly indicated and determined in its relation with the Grand Army of the Republic, we have agreed upon and report for the consideration of this Encampment the following resolution, to wit:

"Resolved, That We, the Representatives of the 61st Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, in session in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this third day of September, A. D. 1927, do hereby recognize the noble, generous and patriotic objects, aims and purposes of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and believe that Organization to be worthy of the support and encouragement of all loyal people; and be it

"Resolved, That we cheerfully extend to the said Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War a cordial welcome as an allied society of the Grand Army of the Republic and we bid this Organization of our Sons Godspeed in the noble work to which it is consecrated, and recommend all Departments, Posts and Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic to accept their services on all occasions when it is proper so to do, to the end that it may increase and prosper and teach to future generations of our Nation the principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

At the 65th Annual Encampment, Des Moines, Iowa, September 14-17, 1931: "Resolved, That the Grand Army of the Republic establish and have given proper observance, in Memorial Day since 1868, we in National Encampment now assembled grant whatever right we have to maintain our memories and see that our graves are properly decorated on Memorial Day to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and protest against any other Organization usurping that right in any place where a Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans exists. Unanimous vote of the Committee."

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### CHANGE OF NAME

For several years prior to 1923 there was considerable agitation, both upon the part of our members and in the ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic, looking towards a change of name, it being felt by many that the name "Sons of Veterans" was not sufficiently distinctive. The first official action that eventually resulted in the change was taken at the Forty-second Annual Encampment held at Milwaukee, Wis., September 4-6, 1923. At this encampment the Committee on State of the Order, consisting of Past Commanders-in-Chief Ralph M. Grant, Fred E. Bolton, John E. Sautter, Charles F. Sherman and William T. Church, offered the following Resolution:

“Resolved, That the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in National Encampment assembled, convey their love and affection to the Comrades of their fathers; renew their pledge of service to the Grand Army of the Republic, and express an earnest desire to have granted an opportunity to consult with a committee of their Comrades on certain problems which concern our organization.

“We respectfully make this petition and ask the indulgence of Commander-in-Chief Willett, that a committee of five be named with whom the representatives of the Sons of Veterans may confer at some suitable time and place.”

This resolution was unanimously adopted, was presented to the Grand Army of the Republic and resulted in Commander-in-Chief Dr. L. F. Arensberg, of Pennsylvania, successor to Commander-in-Chief Willett, naming the following as a committee to represent his organization: Past Commanders-in-Chief Willett, Burton and King.

This committee met with the committee of our Order at Grand Rapids, Mich., at the time of the National Encampment, September 1-3, 1925, thoroughly discussed the entire matter, resulting in the following resolutions being offered by the committee representing our Order, and approved:

“Whereas, The Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans in regular session in Milwaukee in 1923, adopted a resolution asking the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic to name a committee representing that Organization to confer with a committee to be named to represent the Order of the Sons of Veterans, to consider among other things, a change in the name of the Order of the Sons of Veterans that would more clearly indicate and designate of whom the Order consists, and

“Whereas, Dr. L. F. Arensberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, has named a Committee to represent that Organization consisting of Past Commander-in-Chief Willett, Burton, and King; and

“Whereas, That Committee has communicated to the Committee representing our Order, that they have unanimously decided to recommend to the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic that the Order of the Sons of Union Veterans, United States of America, adopted the name ‘Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.’ Be It

“Resolved, That the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans in regular session do hereby adopt the recommendation of the Committee representing the Grand Army of the Republic, and subject to the approval by the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic of the recommendation of their Committee, such portions of the Constitution and Regulations of the Order of the Sons of Veterans, United States of

America, as pertain to the name of the Order, be repealed, and in lieu thereof the name 'Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War' be adopted and inserted; and Be It Further

"Resolved, That a Committee be named by the Commander-in-Chief with full power to act upon said details as may be found necessary to change the Constitution and Regulations, ritual, badges, and all forms, reports, and papers to conform to the name 'Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,' and further to take such legal action as may be necessary to cause the corporate name of the Order of the Sons of Veterans, United States of America, to be changed to that of 'Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War'."

These resolutions were presented to the Grand Army of the Republic, in regular session at the same time and place and approved by them.



### THE SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE

In the early years the Sons of Veterans was strictly a military organization. Its Commander-in-Chief had the rank of General, and the use of military titles continued down to the Camp officers. Dress uniforms for the officers and regulation army uniforms of the Civil War period for the membership were compulsory.

At the Minneapolis Encampment in 1891 the military organization was abandoned and the titles of the Commanding Officers were changed to that of Commander.

At the same time it was enacted that the Order might establish a military rank, make laws governing the same and grant warrants for the formation of Companies. This resulted in many Camps forming "Firing Squads" or "Camp Guards", principally for the purpose of providing military rites at the funerals of members of the Grand Army of the Republic, or other veterans of the Civil War.

From this eventuated the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the recognized and authorized military branch, and speedily became a valuable adjunct to the Order.

In the early stages of its existence it was more strongly developed in the Department of Pennsylvania, and for years, with few exceptions, at the time of the Department Encampment the Sons of Veterans Reserve have had a regular military camp, under canvas, obtained from the state of Pennsylvania, and conducted under strict military regulations.

At the present time, while still strongest in Pennsylvania, companies are in existence, as parts of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, in the Departments of Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Ohio and Illinois.

## OUR AUXILIARY

(NOTE: Taken largely from the History of the Auxiliary of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as prepared by Past National President, Molly D. Hammer, and approved by the Auxiliary.)

The "Big Brother" of our Organization (the Auxiliary) was Major A. P. Davis, of Pittsburgh. Through his efforts and interest the first Ladies' Aid Society was organized as an Auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans. This occurred at Philadelphia early in 1883, and during the following year this Organization was recognized by the Sons of Veterans in the following resolution adopted at the Fourth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, August 28, 1884, held in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"Resolved, That the efforts of the Ladies' Aid Societies are truly appreciated by this Commandery-in-Chief, and that their work be heartily endorsed, and recommended to the various Camps under this jurisdiction."

The Ladies' Aid Society flourished in several States and a National Organization was effected in 1886, with Miss Laura Martin, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as National President, and was completed as a National body at the first National Encampment of the Society held at Akron, Ohio, September 7-8, 1887, at which time eighteen delegates were present.

With the completion of the National body the Organization spread rapidly until it soon had Auxiliaries in practically all of the Divisions (as then called) of the Sons of Veterans.

The Name Ladies' Aid Society was found not to be distinctive for its real purpose and working ideals and at the National Encampment held in Boston, Mass., in 1894, with the consent of the National body of the Sons of Veterans, the name was changed to Sons of Veterans Auxiliary, and, later meeting the action of the Order of the Sons of Veterans in its change of name, at National Encampment held at Grand Rapids, Mich., 1925, the name of the Auxiliary was changed to Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The first of its worthy principles and objects reads, "To assist the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in all its principles and objects." To this end, the Auxiliary has continuously and consistently worked and has been of real value to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in performing distinctively patriotic work that can best be done by women.

It was early recognized by the Grand Army of the Republic as an allied order.

Its Annual Encampments have always been held at the same time and place as that of the Order of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The following have served as National Presidents of the Auxiliary:

1887—\*Mrs. Laura M. Miller, Pennsylvania  
1887-88—\*Mrs. W. D. A. O'Brien, Ohio  
1889-90—\*Mrs. Ella L. Jones, Pennsylvania  
1891—\*Mrs. J. S. Mason, Ohio  
1892-93—\*Mrs. Belle Rice, Iowa  
1894-95-96—\*Mrs. Margaret Coe, Illinois  
1897—Miss Kate G. Raynor, Ohio  
1898—Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, Maryland  
1900-01-02—\*Mrs. Lida T. Miller, New York  
1903-04—\*Miss Addie M. Wallace, Indiana  
1905-06—Mrs. Kate Carr, Pennsylvania  
1907—\*Mrs. Julia Moynihan, New York  
1908—Miss Mame E. Herbst, Ohio  
1909-10—Mrs. Molly D. Hammer, New Jersey  
1911—Mrs. Pauline Creighton, Illinois  
1912—Mrs. Flora Whitney, Massachusetts  
1913—\*Mrs. Frances F. Moynihan, New York  
1914—Miss Edna Bergwitz, Ohio  
1915—Mrs. Bessie Bowser, Indiana  
1916—\*Mrs. Libbie Meis, Pennsylvania  
1917—Mrs. Rae E. Clothier, Illinois  
1918—Miss Mayme E. Dwyer, New York  
1919—Mrs. Margaret C. Palmer, Massachusetts  
1920—\*Miss Mary L. Trelo, New Jersey  
1921—Mrs. Blanche Beverstock, New Hampshire  
1922—Mrs. Margaret P. Stephens, Ohio  
1923—Mrs. Minnie E. Groth, Wisconsin  
1924—Mrs. Emma S. Finch, Indiana  
1925—Mrs. Ida R. Klein, Maine  
1926—Mrs. Mamie M. Deems, California  
1927—Mrs. Anna F. Keene, Pennsylvania  
1928—Mrs. Margaret L. Waters, Massachusetts  
1929—\*Mrs. Elizabeth Hansen, New Jersey  
1930—Mrs. Ida B. Lange, New York  
1931—Miss Celeste Gentieu, Maryland  
1932—Mrs. Willma Combs, Iowa  
1933—Mrs. Jean B. Thompson, Ohio  
1934—Mrs. Margaret Anderson, Massachusetts  
1935—Mrs. Gertrude M. Sautter, Pennsylvania  
1936—Mrs. Stella B. Owens, New Jersey  
1937—Mrs. Ida Lewis, Wisconsin  
1938—Mrs. Margaret Brady, New York  
1939—Mrs. Anne Lockyer, Ohio

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\*Deceased.

## WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

### BECAUSE—

First—It is only through such membership I can best show to the world my pride in being a descendant of one who served his country in the darkest period of its history, thus helping to preserve it, and my own gratitude for such service.

Second—The Purposes and Objects of this Organization prove it to be one with a purpose. They are such as should appeal to every eligible, urging his support in a worthwhile and necessary patriotic work, without the fulfillment of which, upon the part of our citizenry, there can be no assurance of the perpetuity of our Republic.

Third—The GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, through its official and by individual action, has repeatedly shown their faith in the Order of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and their desire that through it shall be continued the great work of that Order, composed of the preservers of the Union.

Fourth—In the years of its existence the Order has been true to its Purposes and Objects, and has accomplished a telling work for good, especially in maintaining a true demand for a proper observance of Memorial Day, that it shall be, what its founders, the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, intended it should be, a holy day, not a holiday.

Fifth—Its eligibility insures its continued existence. It is destined in the future, if the membership be true to their obligation, to be the greatest patriotic fraternity in our beloved country, as is due an Order with such a purpose.

First prize winning paper in the Past Commander-in-Chief Frank Shellhouse contest, decided at the 49th Annual Encampment, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 26-28, 1930, submitted by Col. F. H. Collier Camp No. 139, Department of Pennsylvania, Sharpsburg.





SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL HALL

This Memorial was erected exclusively in honor and memory of the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of Allegheny County who served in the War for the Suppression of the Rebellion, 1861-1865, at a cost of \$1,652,500.00.

The grounds on which the Memorial is located constitute an entire city square, with a frontage of 280 feet on Fifth Avenue and extending back 589 feet to Bayard Street.

The building, a magnificent architectural structure, completed in 1910 and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on October 11th of that year, is 240x210 feet and contains two large rooms for the free use of the Posts of the Grand Army, the Union Veteran Legion, and their Auxiliaries, and organizations growing out of later wars and their auxiliaries; an Auditorium having a seating capacity of 3000, and a Banquet Room seating 900; with a fully equipped kitchen, together with office, library, committee and other necessary rooms. A wide corridor extends around the entire Auditorium, upon the walls of which are placed mural tablets on which are inscribed the name, company and regiment, organization or War Vessel, of each individual soldier or sailor who served in the Union Army or Navy from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, during the War of the Rebellion. The Memorial faces Schenley Park, while near by are the imposing buildings of the Carnegie Library, Carnegie Institute of Technology, University of Pittsburgh and its Cathedral of Learning, Heinz Memorial Chapel, Gen. Albert J. Logan Armory, University Club, Pittsburgh Athletic Association, Masonic Temple, Syria Mosque, Stephen G. Foster Memorial, Mellon Institute and other buildings, all of which are fine specimens of architecture.



COAT OF ARMS

William C. Elliott, Printer  
3604 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.



